

# Annis Quotes

DR. EDWARD R. ANNIS, President-Elect of the American Medical Association, has been speaking to audiences the country over for the purpose of bringing Medicine's reasons for opposing legislation of the King-Anderson type to the attention of the public at large. The following are excerpts from the speeches he has made in California and elsewhere.

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"We are not defending a profession. We are not promoting our own personal interests. We are promoting fundamental principles which underlie the very system that makes our government operate."

"No one knows more than we do the cost of American medicine, but no one knows better than those of us who deal with it every day the real worth which is made available to all the American people."

"This year, next year, and for as long as necessary, we intend to continue with courage and success—and without compromise on basic principles. To spell it out, that means no compromise in our opposition to the idea of financing health care through the Social Security system."

"Unfortunately, this whole subject [financing medical care of the aged] has been turned into a political football during the past three years. Actually, it is a non-partisan issue which should be resolved on a basis of facts instead of emotion, reason rather than rallies. It involves principles and approaches which go beyond the fortunes of any political party or the political ambitions of any individual."

"The medical cost problems that do exist among the aged are problems of individuals, not of an entire age group."

"The medical profession asks only two things in 1963: That the American people continue to study carefully all the facts and realities involved in this issue [medical care of the aged] and that the U.S. Congress in 1963 base its judgment on common sense rather than common politics."

"If it [medical care of the aged] passed, only two steps would be necessary to push the U.S. into full-scale nationalized medicine—providing full medical care (including all physicians' services) for the aged, and then lowering the age restrictions until all Americans are legislated into a government 'health' program from the cradle to the grave."

"Federalized hospitalization for the aged was exposed before the last Congress and the people as a hoax and a fraud. It was demonstrated again and again that the program would do what the proponents piously denied it would do: namely, permit government intervention in the practice of medicine in this country for the first time and begin destruction of the twin traditions of freedom of the patient's choice and freedom of the doctor's practice which have made American medicine one of the wonders of the modern world."

"Whatever alternative proposals or purported medicare compromises are put forward in the months to come, Americans should see them all as merely different routes to the same destination—government control of the practice of medicine."